

We Claim:

1. An educational system, comprising:
  - an object having at least one visually recognizable symbol thereon;
  - an emitter within said object for emitting a signal uniquely representative of said at least one visually recognizable symbol; and
  - an enclosure, including:
    - a surface for supporting said object, and
    - a processor, including means for receiving said signal from said emitter, said processor capable of identifying said symbol from said signal, and capable of identifying a position of said object on said surface.
2. An apparatus for entering data into a computer, the data being entered via the placement of a plurality of objects on the apparatus, each object having at least one unique item of detectable data associated therewith, comprising:
  - a surface for receiving the placement of an object;
  - one or more detectors capable of detecting the data associated with an object placed on the surface;
  - a line capable of communicating the detected data from the apparatus to the computer.

3. An apparatus as in claim 2 whereby the detectors are capable of detecting the location of an object on the surface.